

Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 1–38. Claims 1, 11, 21, 29, 32, and 37 have been amended. Claims 1–38 remain in the application.

The Examiner rejected: (i) claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,568,522 (Boelaars); (ii) claims 3–6, 11–14, 18, 21, 22, 27–32, 36, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boelaars in view of US 4,598,815 (Adama); (iii) claims 7, 8, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boelaars in view of Adama and further in view of US 5,238,099 (Schroeder et al.); (iv) claims 10, 19, 23, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boelaars in view of Adama and further in view of US 5,984,078 (Bonnet); and (v) claims 9, 15–17, 24–26, and 33–35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boelaars in view of Adama and further in view of US 3,921,789 (Goldinger) and US 6,318,544 (O'Connor). But the Examiner suggested that applicant replace “intersecting” with “intersecting and passing through” in claim 1 because the main conveyor of Boelaars does not pass through the cross conveyor. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, 21, 29, 32, and 37 to adopt the Examiner’s suggestion. Neither Boelaars nor any of the other references, taken alone or in combination, discloses all the limitations of the independent claims and, consequently, of the dependent claims. Therefore, the rejection of all the claims should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of these remarks and amendments and allowance of the application.

This Examiner-suggested amendment is being sent within two months of the Final Office Action so no extension of time petition fee should be due. Any fees deemed necessary for consideration of this response may be charged to Deposit Account No. 12-0090. If the Examiner

thinks a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: /jtc/

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